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27 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Plans and Development Staff

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Proposal for Film Viewer Development

I. PROBLEM

To assure NPIC that our viewer development program is planned to provide adequate film viewing mechanisms ahead of scheduled inputs.

II. ASSUMPTIONS

1. That current development work being done by [REDACTED] on the "Extra" viewer may not meet quality of performance as specified in the contract. This assumption is based on recent "hedging" done by [REDACTED] via telecom.

2. That input programs will meet with only limited delay or quality degradation.

III. FACTS

1. Assuming the possible validity of assumptions one and two above, it becomes mandatory that we take immediate steps to assure ourselves that a possible failure by [REDACTED] does not affect NPIC capabilities to exploit potential inputs.

2. NPIC has in hand a proposal from [REDACTED] to undertake a 3-step program for development of a high acuity viewer. Step one [REDACTED] would be a design study to define equipment parameters. Step two [REDACTED] would produce finished engineering drawings ready for manufacture; and step three (with no pricing data established beyond an original [REDACTED]) would consist of fabrication of a single prototype device.

3. The [REDACTED] program is capable of termination at the end of any of the three proposed phases with a real gain to NPIC from the engineering time spent and the consequent knowledge gained. Such a course allows NPIC to run a development effort parallel with the [REDACTED] contract, and with the expectation that either one or the other contract may be cancelled upon the apparent success or failure of either effort.

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25X1A IV. RECOMMENDATION

That NPIC initiate, at the earliest possible date, a contract with [REDACTED] to undertake the proposed steps one and two as outlined in the attached proposal, dated 12 June 1961. That further, NPIC be prepared to initiate a step three contract if such should appear to hold profit, real or potential, for NPIC in accomplishment of our mission.

[REDACTED] 25X1A

Attachments:

- 1 - Proposal for Engineering Study of
a High Capability Viewer
- 2 - Cost Proposal, High Projection Viewer
- 3 - Proposal for a Rear-Projection Viewer
(copies 2 and 3)

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ATTACHMENT II

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Conversations with Messrs. [REDACTED] 25X1A
[REDACTED] were held to investigate the [REDACTED] desire to rebid on a multi-25X1A
format high acuity viewer. Their current bid for such a device is [REDACTED]
and, since our need is for a "back-up program" to the [REDACTED] "Extra" pro- 25X1A
ject and not prime design, the current [REDACTED] bid would seem excessive. 25X1A

I am advised that as a result of this visit [REDACTED] is bidding a three- 25X1A
stage approach to such a viewer. Stage one will consist of the working out
of design problems and the preparation of design sketches. Stage two shall
consist of the finalized engineering and stage three shall be the manufacture
of one or more viewers. This concept will allow cancellation (if appropriate)
at any time that other program developments indicate no further need for a
"back-up" program.

I was unaccompanied for the period of these discussions.

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